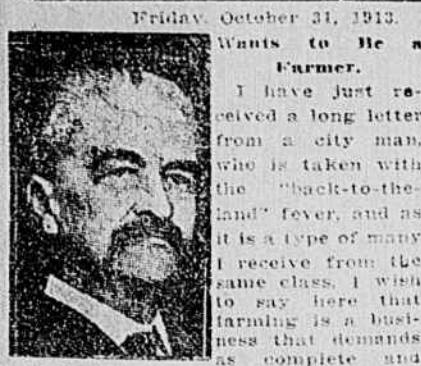


WITH THE FARMERS

By Prof. W. F. MASSEY



Friday, October 31, 1913.
Wants to Be a Farmer.

I have just received a long letter from a city man, who is taken with the "back-to-the-land" fever, and as it is a type of many I receive from the same class, I wish to say here that farming is a business that demands careful training as any other profession. The city man going on a farm with the idea that any man can be a farmer, will soon find that he is handicapped by lack of practical experience, and will have to learn the profession in the dearest of schools, experience. The chances then are that a man with limited means will be bankrupted before he has gained the knowledge necessary to make a success on a farm. Nine of this class of men out of every ten, have figured on paper the wonderful profits that are to be made in the raising of poultry and selling eggs, and they can do this themselves to this wonderfully profitable business. A year or two soon satisfies them that poultry, as an exclusive business, gives a poor living to most men, and they return to the city wiser and poorer. The young man in the city who has a desire to be a farmer, would be wise to first take a winter course of study in one of the State colleges of agriculture, and then put out the next summer to a successful farmer and work as a hand on the farm to gain some practical experience in the work. Then, if he is a good student, he may invest in a small farm and be better fitted to gain further practical knowledge of the business. There is no surer way to fail than to go on a farm and try to run it with success. Even the four-year graduate of an agricultural college is not so well prepared to make a success on a farm, much less the untrained city man. The college graduate in agriculture has acquired a store of information in regard to farming, and only needs the brief experience with a successful farmer to put him in line for making a success himself. But the average city-bred man will be pretty sure to fail if he attempts to run a farm even after he has read all the books on farming that he can get his hands on. No man would expect to succeed as a physician, lawyer or a preacher without a good preliminary training, and farming demands as thorough a training as any of the professions. The graduate of the agricultural college has practical hospital training to make a physician, and the lawyer needs court experience before many will employ him to take a case, and the farmer must add to his training the practical work on a farm in order to make him a farmer.

I would say then to my city correspondent that notwithstanding the fact, as he says, that he has a good thing in the country, and has been studying them, he must take at least a winter course at some of the colleges of agriculture and then add at least one summer's work on a farm to give him the needed experience before investing his money in a farm. And then he should not invest all he has in land, for there is need always for working capital in a farm as in every other business, and the man with only a piece of land and without the means for its improvement is badly handicapped and certain to fail. The beginner should buy a small piece of good land, rather than a large piece of poor land, for the improvement of the poor land is the work of a lifetime, and it is impossible for a city man to learn farming if he goes about it right, but he will be pretty sure to fail if he assumes that any man with the farming fever or from any necessary reason without learning the profession first.

Curing Sweet Potatoes.
Elizabeth City, N.C.: "I have built a sweet potato house 15x20 feet. Have made four tiers the length of the house. The walls are brick with a dead air space between and also the roof. What I want to know is how to get them dug as soon as possible. I have read from you about drying them with heat, but I would like to know how long and how long to keep them hot, and whether it will hurt the small ones that I shall keep for seed to dry them by heat. In fact, any information you can give?"

The best way to heat a curing house is to have a brick furnace in one end opening in a shed outside like a flue-curing tobacco barn. From this flue can be taken around the house overhead for heat. A large stove can be used in the same way sitting in the shed outside.

In Accomac and Northampton the growers claim that they can keep the potatoes in their houses without using any artificial heat, and that this is the trouble is to prevent the house getting too warm. Of course, there is this trouble in a mild climate like yours, for after the potatoes have dried off the frost the weeds they always pass through, after the storage of the potatoes is not higher than 50 degrees is better than any higher. But any chill while sweating will cause rot more or less. So it simply depends on how they are dried off, and how long they are kept on and run it up with the ventilator open to 55 or 60 degrees till they have dried off. After that, in a house such as you describe, it is simply to watch the weather and try to maintain a temperature from 60 to 65 degrees. It may be necessary in winter months to open doors and ventilators at night and close early in the morning so as to retain the cool night air.

Instead of this, I would prefer to gather the potatoes in the fall into vegetable crates and store them in these piled, so that the air can circulate all around them. You might do as I do, as I have an Athens, Ga. I had 3 shelves in each corner of the house, and on each shelf I placed a kerosene stove and heated the house with these very nicely. There will always be a danger of unusual cold, when a little heat will be very necessary, and it is always best to use it. Potatoes in a large bin and a large mass are harder to keep than in crates, and the digging should involve as little handling as possible. Hence the value of the crates that can be filled in the field and not handled any more. The heating will require your coal potatoes. Our growers use a revolving roller like a disk, on a pivot beam, and run this between the rows to cut the vines. The potatoes are then turned out with a two-horse plow, the team straddling the rows. They should be while in the sun and then gathered and handled

delicately to prevent bruising, and no cut potatoes should go into storage.

Color of Belgian Rabbits.
"What color should the giant Belgian or Flemish rabbits be? I ordered a pair and they are about the same color as our wild rabbits, have very large ears and feet, and look as though they may grow large. Are they all right? Rabbits are out of my line. I had rather shoot the pests than breed them. I know nothing about the Belgians, except that I have seen them in the fair, and have never seen any that were not the same color as our wild hares."

Sowing a Small Lot to Grass.
"I have a lot in town of two acres that I wish to sow to timothy, red top and snailspine clover. Please state in the paper the amount of seed to give a heavy stand of grass? Will it be best to sow some oats with it? The land is good. It made sixty bushels of oats and wheat, and I have just cut a heavy crop of soy beans and peas. Have been giving it a coat of manure and about 500 to 600 pounds an acre of acid phosphate and potash each year, getting two crops a year of small grain and peas hay. Have ten tons of manure to use this fall and more in the spring. What fertilizer shall I use on the grass? To get that lot in grass, I would not use any fertilizer besides the manure after what you have applied. Drill in about a bushel of oats with a wheat drill and then sow ten pounds of timothy and ten pounds of red top, and brush the seed in with a smoothing harrow. Sow the clover on frost-free ground in the morning in late February, so that the thaw will cover the seed. Sow ten pounds of the clover. It is rather late to get a stand now that would winter well, and I would rather sow the medium red clover than the snailspine clover."

Cleaning Land of Bermuda Grass.
In the trucking section, I have a field that is thickly set in Bermuda grass, which I want to prepare for a variety of truck crops in the spring. How shall I go about it? Now is a good time to begin the destruction of the grass. Plow the land and just back enough to get under the sod, not over three inches deep. Then harrow and rake out all the grass you can and haul it off to some waste place or gully, where it will do some good. If the land is sandy, you can get most of the grass out. Then the next season you will have to cultivate the truck crops very rapidly to keep down any grass that may be left. If you plant tomatoes you should stake them and train to single stems, and then you can keep the soil clean of grass, for if the tomatoes are allowed to tumble on the ground, the grass will get a good start there, and you will have the trouble all over again. Bermuda grass will leave the land more fertile than before, and with good fertilization and clean cultivation, truck crops should do well. But the first season I would not plant any crops that will cover the ground late in the season, such as melons, as the grass will get a new start among these, but cultivate crops like Irish potatoes, tomatoes, etc., that will allow you to keep the grass down during the summer. Sow peas as a smother crop after the early vegetables to shade out grass.

Packing and Shipping Strawberry Plants.
"Will you kindly furnish me directions for packing and shipping strawberry plants so that they will arrive in good order, and that the cost of shipping will be a minimum?"
Clean the plants of all dead leaves and straighten the roots and the bunches of fifty with label stuck under each tie. The large supplies of plants in pack orders of any size in straw-bagged crates, the roots inside and the tops out. In fact, many of the tops projecting between the slats of the crate. Put a layer of damp sphagnum moss on the bottom of the crate, and pack the crate full so that there will be no jostling. Small orders can be wrapped in oiled paper with moss and heavy manilla paper wrapped around this. They will go by parcel post in this way, to California or Oregon. During the spring shipping season here it is a daily sight to see wagon loads of the crates going to the depots with the green leaves showing between every slat, and if plenty of moss is used there is no damage done at all.

Grass Not Doing Well.
Buckingham County, Va.: "I have a field in mixed grasses, herds grass, timothy and snailspine clover. Red subsoil, high land well-drained. Been seeded three years. Land does not seem to be rich. I want to know how to get it to pay me to sow a lot of clover and timothy or Thomas phosphate on this grass and harrow it in? It so how much an acre and how to put it on?"
It will be a good plan to apply now 500 pounds an acre of Thomas phosphate, and in the spring of 1914, sow an application of 100 pounds an acre of alfalfa seed. Apply this as growth starts, and when the leaves are dry, crush all limbs fine before applying the material. No harrowing will be needed now or in the spring. Nitrogen applied now would be largely lost in the winter, and I would apply only the phosphate now, and that carries some lime, which will also be a help. Then run a good grass harrow more season, and after that you can break the land well and sow to peas. Turn those under when mature in the fall and reseed the land to grass, and you will get far better results. If bonemeal is used it should always be applied in spring.

Nitrogen is Hard to Hold.
No system of farming that has ever been devised will prevent some loss of nitrogen from the soil as soon as it is in the form that plants use it, that is, as a nitrate. There will always at times be floods of rain in the growing season, when nitrates are most rapidly formed, and much of these will be washed away and down out of the reach of plants. The way to save as much of the nitrogen as possible is to always have a growing crop on the land, and this is the reason the South better than in any other part of the country.

Hereford Cattle

35 HEAD AT PUBLIC AUCTION.
ORANGE, VA., NOV. 6, 1913.
The best blood of the breed.

32 head from Warren T. McCray, Kentland, Ind.; 15 head from Graham P. Blandy, White Post, Va., and others. Catalogues sent on application to—

LUCIO W. HILL,
Locust Dale, Va.
Auctioneers:
Col. Fred Reppert and
Col. D. M. Pattie.

The Very Best Dance Music

—Yes, and the very latest dances—Tango, Turkey Trot, One-Step, Waltz or Two-Step. The

Victor or Victor-Victrola

will play them for you any time, and as often as you like—loud, clear and in perfect dance time.

Come to our store and hear some of the latest dance records.

Victors, \$10 to \$100.
Victrolas, \$15 to \$200.
Easy terms if desired.

Walter D. Moses & Co.,
103 East Broad Street,
Oldest Music House in Virginia and North Carolina.

STATE BIG GAINER IN TAXES LEVIED

Public Service Corporations Assessed \$1,280,219.75 by Commission.

AN INCREASE OF \$111,449.40

Gross Earnings of Express Companies Show Inroads of Parcel Post.

Assessment of property, and franchises of public service corporations in Virginia for the current year has been completed by the State Corporation Commission. The assessment shows a total of taxes accruing to the State from this class of corporations of \$1,280,219.75, which is a net gain of \$111,449.40 for the State treasury over 1912.

Analysis of the detailed statement shows that the express companies and the canal companies were the only class of public service corporations to have a decrease in assessment. The decrease is explained on the grounds of inroads made into their business by the parcel post. The property tax for 1913 of express companies is slightly larger than in 1912, but the franchise tax based on gross earnings is smaller than last year. The discrepancy in canal companies' assessments is attributed to the purchase by the government of one canal and the turning of it into a free canal.

The total gain of \$111,449.40 in taxes is divided as follows among the various classes of public service corporations:

Telephone and telegraph companies	\$7,005.87
Express companies	\$344.10
Steamship and steamboat companies	\$6,184.39
Sleeping car companies	\$5,526.78
Canal companies	\$871.22
Electric railway companies	\$31,097.55
Light, heat and power companies	\$34,121.31
Lumber and mining companies	\$1,460.14
Electric and power companies	\$1,210.14
Gas companies	\$250.00
Tramway companies	\$83,824.25
Light, heat and power companies	\$34,121.31
Lumber and mining companies	\$1,460.14
Electric and power companies	\$1,210.14
Gas companies	\$250.00
Tramway companies	\$83,824.25

The corporations having decreased taxation in 1913 are: express companies, \$155.47; and canal companies, \$221.14.

Notice of the assessments have already been distributed by Clerk R. T. Wilson, of the State Corporation Commission, and the corporations are allowed until November 26 to settle their taxes.

OBJECTS TO GIFT FOR MISS WILSON

Gray Thinks Minority Leader's Mann's Plan Is "In Exceeding Bad Taste."

Washington, October 30.—(Republican Leader Mann's plan for submitting from Congress to a wedding gift for Miss Jessie Wilson was denounced in the House today by Representative Gray, Democrat of Indiana, who said the movement was "in exceeding bad taste."

Gray declared that few of the members knew the bride-elect, and he offered a resolution declaring that the members of the House "extend to Miss Wilson, on approaching this great step in life's highway, their heartfelt congratulations and well wishes as a symbol of the solicitude of Congress for the happiness and welfare of all our people."

No action was taken on the resolution. While Gray was speaking he held a check for \$5, which he said he would give to "some little poor child who at Christmas time peers through the windows of a toy shop."

"I wish to absolve myself," said Gray, "from the movement of President Wilson's daughter a wedding present. This is in bad taste, and I am sure it has for its foundation only a desire to attract attention—a morbid desire for recognition. I think especially bad taste, an indiscretion and a piece of unwarranted assumption to tender the lady any trinket."

"Except for a few members, none of us is a close personal friend of this family. The great body of members are strangers. The White House knows us only in our representative capacity. It is not proper to recognize the coming wedding. If at all only as an official act, and the way the House can properly perform its part at the coming wedding would be through a resolution."

Representative Poin, of North Carolina, objected to any consideration of Gray's resolution.

Mr. Mann, as Republican leader, ended the incident with a statement that it would be "chop-logic" to try to put into Mr. Gray's mouth the expression which finds itself in the heart of every other member of this House. Other members do not need to be told why."

State Taxes on Corporations.

Telephone and Telegraph Companies—	Prop. Tax.	License Tax.	Total.
1913.....	\$11,008 07	\$53,028 45	\$65,387 12
1912.....	10,893 85	47,047 58	58,531 43
	\$1,024 82	\$5,980 87	\$7,005 69
Express Companies—			
1913.....	\$344 10	\$26,479 02	\$26,823 21
1912.....	336 50	26,022 18	26,058 68
	\$7 69	\$8143 10	\$8135 47
Steamboat and Steamship Companies—			
1913.....	\$6,184 39	\$4,005 20	\$10,189 59
1912.....	6,255 07	3,586 32	9,841 39
	\$70 68	\$418 88	\$348 20
Sleeping Car Companies—			
1913.....	\$5,526 78	\$5,526 78	\$5,526 78
1912.....	5,141 78	5,141 78	5,141 78
	\$385 00	\$385 00	\$385 00
Canal Companies—			
1913.....	\$ 871 22	\$858 21	\$1,729 43
1912.....	1,411 80	898 77	2,250 57
	\$540 58	\$10 44	\$551 02
Franchise Tax.			
1913.....	\$858 21	\$1,729 43	\$2,587 64
1912.....	898 77	2,250 57	3,149 34
	\$385 00	\$385 00	\$770 00
Electric Railway Companies—			
1913.....	\$31,097 55	\$40,841 04	\$71,938 59
1912.....	27,373 30	44,088 46	71,461 76
	\$3,824 25	\$5,152 58	\$8,976 83
Light, Heat and Power Companies—			
1913.....	\$34,121 31	\$21,063 26	\$55,184 57
1912.....	26,809 61	19,506 17	46,315 78
	\$7,311 70	\$2,157 09	\$9,468 79
Total tax, 1913.....			\$1,280,219 75
Total tax, 1912.....			1,168,770 35
			\$111,449 40
Total increases.....			\$112,106 01
Total decreases.....			656 61
			\$111,449 40

*Indicates decrease.

NEWS OF SOUTH RICHMOND

NOT TO CALL MEETING

Chesterfield Supervisors Ignore Plea to Shorten Game Season.

Although a special meeting of the Chesterfield Board of Supervisors was expected to be called for the purpose of considering a petition to shorten the game season, it was said last night that the matter had been dropped, and hunters may begin to kill game in the county to-morrow morning. It was proposed by a number of farmers and citizens to end short the season for one month, making it begin on December 1. "As the Henrico authorities decided not to change the law, there is no reason for us to do so," said a member of the board.

L. H. Rhoades, chairman of the board, and E. Thomas Latcher, another member of the supervisors, went to Fredericksburg yesterday to inspect a steam roller to be used in improving the roads in the county. The present machine in use is out of order, and has been unsatisfactory ever since it was purchased. The new roller contemplated will cost \$2,000. It is so arranged that the engine can be used for motive power in making other road repairs.

GOOD PLAY

Large Crowd Seen "Out in the Street" at Church Bazaar.

The excellent results following overindulgence in liquor were shown with vivid effect in "Out in the Street," presented last night in the Masonic Temple by a capable company. The play was given under the auspices of the women of Governor Avenue Christian Church at the bazaar, which is being held for the benefit of the building fund of the church. A large crowd saw the production, and the actors received much applause.

The cast of characters was as follows:

Colonel Wayne, J. G. Long; Mrs. Wayne, Miss Blanche Jefferson; Miss Wayne, Miss Lucile Ford; Dr. Medfield, H. J. Pugh; Peter Snoot, R. A. Adkins; Mrs. Brandfield, Miss Addie Johnson; Annie Brandfield, Miss Annie Bass; Solon Davis, Emmett Eggleston; Matt Davis, Clayton East; two policemen, Phillip and Clarence Fry.

The program to-night has been arranged especially for the juveniles. There will be recitations and musical selections by many of the children.

Engagement Rings

We have a beautiful line of Engagement Rings set with diamonds and other stones; also a large stock of plain Wedding Rings. Let us show you our stock.

"THE DIAMOND MERCHANT"

J. S. JAMES

JEWELER AND OPTICIAN.

Seventh and Main Streets.

Onticello Is Radio-Active

Shades to Order at Ryan-Smiths

Policy Store

BIRTHDAY RINGS,

BRACELETS,

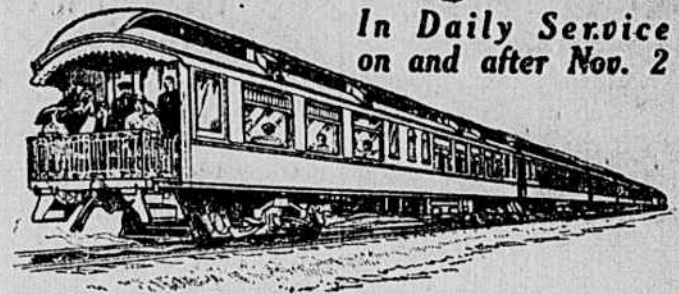
CAMEO BROOCHES,

Smith & Webster

805 East Main.

New Fast Through Train

In Daily Service on and after Nov. 2



Between Memphis, Little Rock and Hot Springs

EVERY travel comfort is provided in the consist of this new train—a handsome observation parlor car, dining car, chair car and divided coach—service that will please all classes of patrons. It goes on next Sunday, November 2, via the Iron Mountain Route, leaving from the handsome New Union Station in Memphis.

8:45 am Lv.	Memphis	Ar.	7:15 pm
10:20 am Lv.	Wynne	Ar.	5:32 pm
1:15 pm Ar.	Little Rock	Lv.	2:45 pm
1:25 pm Ar.	Little Rock	Ar.	2:35 pm
3:20 pm Ar.	Hot Springs	Lv.	12:45 pm

In addition to the new fast train, the midnight train out of Memphis will be extended to run through to Hot Springs, giving an excellent through service both day and night, between Memphis, Little Rock and Hot Springs—via the

Iron Mountain Route

Requests for reservations or any information will receive prompt attention.

WM. E. HOYT, G. E. P. A.,

1246 Broadway, New York City.

MURDER ADMITTED BY THOMAS ALGER

Witness for Brother Tells How He Slew Oswald Gray on Mountain Path.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
Luray, Va., October 30.—Mountain men and women by scores are swarming Luray awaiting the jury's verdict in the trial of Emanuel Alger, who, on the charge of being drunk and disorderly in the street car terminal on Seventh Street, the woman was arrested Wednesday night by Patrolman Lacy, who said she was in an intoxicated condition.

Woman Fined for Disorder.
Mattie E. Wayne, twenty-two years old, was fined \$10 by Justice Maurice yesterday in Police Court, Part II, on the charge of being drunk and disorderly in the street car terminal on Seventh Street. The woman was arrested Wednesday night by Patrolman Lacy, who said she was in an intoxicated condition.

Funeral of Mrs. Bateman.
The funeral of Mrs. Mattie Cobb Bateman, who died on Wednesday morning in her home, 715 Porter Street, was held yesterday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock from the home. Rev. J. W. Kinchloe, pastor of Fairbridge Street Baptist Church, officiated. Burial was in Maury Cemetery.

Committee Meeting November 20.
The executive committee of the South Richmond Educational League will meet on November 20 instead of on the sixth. Arrangements will be made for a big mass meeting of all the members of the organization, at which there will be addresses by several well known speakers.

SUMMERS DENIES IT.
Says He Knows of No Liquor Aid to His Campaign.
(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
Bristol, Va., October 30.—L. J. Summers, Republican nominee for the Virginia State Senate from the First District, composed of the Counties of Smyth and Washington and the city of Bristol, makes a statement emphatically denying a report to the effect that he has received \$2,000 as a contribution from the whiskey men of Virginia to his campaign. "If," he says, "a single liquor dealer or revenue man had contributed a dollar to my campaign or offered to contribute, I do not know it. If any such contribution had been made, I certainly would have known it. This is an absolute falsehood, concocted for the purpose of prejudicing the election. I am a native-born Virginian, and I expect to keep that pledge not to spend any money in election."

Shoplifters Sentenced.
Greensboro, N. C., October 30.—Three negro women, who were arrested Saturday for the wholesale shoplifting, which they had carried on in Greensboro for many months, were today bound over to the Superior Court by Judge Brown in bonds of \$800 each. In the case, charging them with petit larceny, they were sentenced to six months in the Guilford County workhouse. The two men charged with being their partners in crime were released.

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